

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

THURSDAY

MARCH 14, 1917

Clearing The Way For a Vote By The People

Passage of the plebiscite referendum bill by the senate yesterday clears the path for speech and referendum by the house.

The referendum on plebiscite clause satisfies the advocates of party regularity who are concerned over the Republican platform pledge not to tamper with the present liquor law. Now the entire question is referred to vote of the people in duty, a changing public sentiment having made it plain that some action with reference to prohibition was expected of the legislature.

It is probably in the lower house that the booze interests hope to block the bill, if at all. No particular trust need be taken in reports that the liquor men here are satisfied to allow the prohibition issue to go to vote of the people. They would only be satisfied with no action at all, but they know perfectly well that there is no hope now of stemming the tide of popular opinion and killing off the demand for a plebiscite. Hence they are outwardly willing that the issue should go to popular vote, preferring this to federal enactment, or to the petition plebiscite.

Whether the booze interests conduct a lobby in the lower house to block or amend the bill will be watched with very special interest by the public. We hope that if such a lobby is organized, the house itself will protest. Too many unsavory incidents have been connected with the booze business here to make popular the activities of its employes around the legislative halls.

WHY?

There is only one conceivable reason for the harbor board's action in allowing the menace of German refugee steamers in port to continue—that the board has received advices from federal authorities not to move the ships outside the harbor.

Chairman Forbes of the board denies that the territorial officials are acting under the advice of "higher-ups" who in turn are in communication with Washington, but there is no other logical explanation for the recent actions of the board, which first ordered the ships to move—and then rescinded the order, if the half-admissions which come from executive sessions constitute the truth.

Public sentiment here is absolutely against allowing these ships to remain at their piers. What happened on a Sunday of vivid memory not long ago; what happened at Charleston in the sinking of the *Lebenfels*; what happened at Boston in the disabling of the *Kronprinzessin Cecilie*—all this is merely a forecast of what may happen should the United States and Germany go to war. There is no need to go into details. Every thinking American must realize the danger to Honolulu harbor, to wharves and to adjacent shipping.

Recent events have shown that the administration at Washington—though decisive enough in severing diplomatic relations with Germany—is strangely slow to make the decisive step of taking hold of German property in U. S. jurisdiction. The developments here in the release of the German crews indicates that Washington's orders are to allow the Germans every freedom. That has already gone to the extent of endangering American lives and property.

What is behind the administration's attitude is something at which we can only guess. And guessing at inscrutable reasons is not comforting while there continues in this port an absolute menace.

Bonding the ships does not meet the situation in reassuring the public. So long as the ships remain in their slips with German crews, where they may be sunk or blown up, they remain a peril to the port.

Possibly the explanation of it all is that Uncle Sam is not ready for actual war and realizes that seizure of German refugee ships now probably means war. Possibly the are other problems, unknown to the public, giving the administration grave concern, like the German-Mexican plot—held for 30 days by Mr. Wilson until it was made known to the American people. There may be very good reasons why Washington does not want the local authorities to take the action with this local menace which ordinary prudence and precaution counseled.

Certainly the harbor board entirely of its own initiative has not decided on this latest policy. We give the members credit for more realization of the danger than that.

JAPAN AND GERMANY.

From the Independent Review—(Japan)

We hear often from the German side that Japan is pro-German in sentiment, in spite of her alliance to England. The German-American thinks that in case of the German-American war Japan would not miss the opportunity to make attack upon the American coast, and that means a great danger to America, and that therefore the American must consider of the armed conflict with Germany.

There is nothing so absurd as mentioned above. We stand for the principles of justice and righteousness, and are willing to enter with peaceful conditions again with Germany and her allies some day. But the world should comprehend that we are bound by treaty now to go with the Entente Allies, victorious or vanquished.

Yet we cannot see any good for America and the paper.—Baltimore American.

Dry Nation Is Bound to Come

Schofield Notes

John H. Cooke's resolution to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in the state is due to arrive in the House of Representatives to-day. It is supported by the United States as one of the conditions of the loan negotiations. When a vote is taken and sufficient to the United States, it will be against the bill.

EDDING, THEI, Simeon, STARAIA.

Representative Cooke's joint resolution yesterday is a timely and wise step toward the proposed survey by federal experts of Hawaii's school systems.

It seems clear that the governor will not lend his aid to the proposal of such a survey. The College Club's original plan was to have the invitation come from the governor and the superintendent of public instruction, but the governor's lack of sympathy with the scheme has been shown as amounting to open opposition.

The arguments in favor of the survey are so many as to justify the legislature in memorializing Congress to direct the U. S. Bureau of Education to carry out the survey. Already the board has shown itself more than willing to do this work, and the U. S. commissioner, Dr. P. P. Clayton, plans to come personally. A personal visit from Dr. Clayton would be of great value to Hawaii. It illustrates the keen interest which the federal government takes in the progress of this territory.

Representative Cooke's resolution is along the only way and the recognized way to secure the survey. The expense will be small in comparison with the benefits. The federal government is prepared to stand an expense of \$5000 on its part. This is a generous offer indeed and opens an opportunity which it would folly to ignore.

Of the many moves which Mr. Cooke has taken in his legislative terms evincing his interest in progressive education in Hawaii, none is more to the point or with larger possibilities for the future than this.

SCLOTURE

For many years there have been complaints against the dilatory tactics allowed in the United States Senate debates. For three terms past efforts have been made to amend the rules to make a "veto" plan effective—that is, to allow a vote of the members to shut off tiresome debate. But always the entrenched statesmen with their kowtowing to sacred precedent defeated the insurgents.

The recent filibuster of twelve members aroused a nation-wide protest which is forcing through a closure rule. As in the case of the lower house, it took a grave abuse to put through a remedy. Not until the insurgents led the successful fight against Speaker Cannon did the house amend its rules to take the power of a czar from the presiding officer. An abuse that had existed since before the days of the famous Tom Reed was swept out. Now the Senate privilege of uninterrupted speech—made the medium for partisan and personal fights—will be cut off. There have been many famous filibusters, some in a good cause, some in a bad. It is said that Senator La Follette holds the long-distance record, having spoken continuously for 18 hours in the course of a famous filibuster some years ago.

Representative Wilder's three bills on protection of fish and lobster will be up for consideration Saturday morning. They should be passed. It is short-sighted policy to allow the present indiscriminate catches of sea-food to continue—a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy. It is not only short-sighted from the standpoint of the supply of fish, but from the standpoint of the fishermen. It plays into the hands of alien professional fishermen and companies that are winning a monopoly on the taking and selling of sea-food.

Senator Robinson of Mani says the prohibition bill is not "bone-dry." It is as "bone-dry" as common sense allows. Under its terms liquor can be imported and sold only for medicinal, sacramental and scientific purposes. To prevent such uses would carrying the issue to the point of bigotry. The bill recognizes that there are certain legitimate uses for alcohol and does not propose to be fanatical about it. The Maui senator's objection can hardly be seriously made.

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—MARSHAL SMIDDY: I spent a half day looking for General Villa but he is hard to find here as he is in Mexico.

—DEPUTY SHERIFF ASKE: When I saw Jack Frazier hit Tuesday night I thought to myself "Here's the biggest mugger you will ever hold."

—H. W. KINNEY: Although I'm not a member of the legislature I am working hard enough on reports and statistics for the legislature to feel like a member.

—A. T. LONGLEY, superintendent territorial marketing division: I don't have any compensation asking for larger appropriations for such a good cause as the division work.

—HIGH SHERIFF JARRETT: I cannot say truthfully that everyone of the boys down at the prison are being good but I believe they are trying to be and that helps some.

—ALBERT P. TAYLOR, secretary of the Hawaii Promotion Committee: While thanks are going round for the success of the arrival of the first Promotional Committee, we must also let loose right of the fact that the people who opened their homes to the tourists were cooperating to make the show a success. The secretary personally wishes to thank all who so generously opened their homes at the time.

Missouri has joined the list of states which maintain night schools for adults in rural regions.

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LIVING FISH FOUND FROZEN IN RIVER REVIVES ON THAW

fish were imprisoned in the ice and are still solidly embedded. The ice in many places is eight to ten inches thick and clear. Skaters say that hundreds of fish of all kinds and sizes can plainly be seen.

It is said that fish frozen in the ice of a living stream will revive when the ice thaws.

After many failures Italian army engineers have bored the first successful artesian well in Tripoli.

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